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Commonwealth Sports chief Donald Rukare and CGA president PT Usha

OFFICIALLY INDIA'S, AMDAVAD TO HOST 2030 C'WEALTH GAMES

Amdavad (aka Ahmedabad) has been formally ratified by the Commonwealth Sports general body for the Centenary CWG on Wednesday

commonwealth games

15-17 The number of sports Commonwealth Sport has confirmed for 2030

74 Delegates of the 74 Commonwealth member nations and territories ratified the only bid after its executive committee forwarded the recommendation last month

SPORTS THAT ARE CONFIRMED

Athletics & para athletics, swimming & para swimming, table tennis & para table tennis, bowls & para bowls, netball and boxing are among confirmed names, said CS

MORE DISCIPLINES TO BE ADDED SOON

- Though sports like cricket, badminton, archery, shooting are not yet confirmed, there is all likelihood that they will be included later
- Presently, archery, badminton, 3x3 basketball and 3x3 wheelchair basketball, beach volleyball, cricket T20, cycling, diving, hockey, judo, rhythmic gymnastics, rugby sevens, shooting, squash, triathlon and wrestling are being considered for 2030
- Two new traditional sports can be added. Yoga likely to be added

NEW LOOK

LOCAL RESONANCE & GLOBAL APPEAL

The 2030 team will work closely with CS and the International Federations to shape a dynamic and exciting sport programme that will have a strong local resonance and global appeal

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Could defer date of post-SIR draft roll in TN, WB: SC

UDAYAN KISHORE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Wednesday said it would not hesitate to extend the deadline for the publication of the draft electoral rolls in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu if the petitioners make a strong case, while the Election Commission of India (ECI) claimed that some political parties were trying to create "a scare" about the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi made the oral observation while hearing petitions challenging the SIR exercise in the two states.

The remark about extending the deadline for publication of the draft rolls came after the parties appearing in the SIR for West Bengal raised concerns about the court fixing the next date of hearing to December 9, which they claimed was the date for publication of the draft roll as per the SIR schedule.

"So what? If you make out a case, then we can direct them to extend the date. Can that date (publication of draft roll) be a ground for the court to say we don't have any power now? Court can always say," the CJI said.

For its part, the ECI told the court that some political parties are creating a 'scare' about the SIR being undertaken Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala. "Political parties are creating unnecessary scare," the poll panel said.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan said the SIR was being conducted in a "great hurry".

The bench asked the ECI to file its counter-affidavit to the petitions relating to Tamil Nadu and West Bengal by December 4 and December 9, respectively. The bench also posted the pleas seeking deferment of the Kerala SIR to December 2, while asking the ECI and State Election Commission to file their responses by December 1. The hearing will continue on Thursday.

SINGLE-LINE VERDICT

Murugha seer acquitted in first POCSO case

G SUBHASH CHANDRA @ Chitradurga

Dr Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, head of the Murugha Mutt in Chitradurga, was on Wednesday acquitted in the first of the two sensational POCSO cases filed against him three years ago. The trial in the second case is yet to begin. Second Additional District and Sessions Judge Gangadhar Hadapad was to pronounce the judgment in the morning, but adjourned it to at 2.45 pm and read out a single-line verdict acquitting the swamiji, hostel warden Rashmi, mutt manager Paramashivaiah, Basavaditya Swamy, mutt advocate Gangadharaiah, car driver Mahalinga and mutt's cook Karibasappa. As soon as the judgement was pronounced, the swamiji's followers at the court shouted slogans. **CONTINUED ON: P5**

₹7,300cr push for rare earth atmanirbharta

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

AMID a shortage of rare earth magnets blamed on China's export restrictions, the Centre on Wednesday approved a ₹7,280-crore scheme to boost domestic manufacturing of these critical materials.

Minister for Information & Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters that the 'Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM) has been approved with a financial outlay of ₹7,280 crore.

The aim is to establish 6,000 metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) of integrated manufacturing in the country, Vaishnaw added. **CONTINUED ON: P12**

Lost empire: Gambhir times for India

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Guwahati

AS soon as Marco Jansen ran behind and took the catch to condemn India to their worst Test defeat in history (in terms of runs), attention and the focus had turned towards multiple things. What seems astonishing is that India allowed a proud home record to be smashed to bits. For a side that had lost four home Tests from the beginning of 2013 to the end of 2023, they have now endured a run of five losses in seven Tests in 13 months. By any measure, this makes for grim reading.

Coach Gautam Gambhir, one of the few constants in all of those losses, offered transition but he was categorical in saying he wasn't using that as an excuse. Sure, this team has had a significant amount of churn over the last year in terms of retirements, new non-playing staff and some injuries. But the top management legislate for this in all elite teams.

Gambhir said: "That is why it is called transition. That is why these guys need time. I don't think ever in Indian cricket something like this has happened where the transition is happening in the spin-bowling department and in the batting department as well... in both skillsets." The coach wants the BCCI to prioritise Test — something they have already been doing to a vast extent. He also questioned the logic of ending a full white-ball tour of Australia days before the first Test. A question he should ask his employers, BCCI. With India playing no home WTC Test in all of 2026, this gives all stakeholders a chance to reassess and reset. An empire is over, the fortress is in ruins. The BCCI needs to rebuild the team with focus on future. **P19**

EXPRESS READ

36 dead, 279 missing in Hong Kong high-rise fire

Hong Kong: At least 36 people died and 279 people were reported missing when fire spread across seven high-rise apartment towers in a housing complex in Tai Po district, Hong Kong, on Wednesday. Hundreds of residents were evacuated as the blaze continued late into the night. Officials said the fire started at the scaffolding of one of the buildings and later spread to nearby buildings | **P14**

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saradha panchashatamanotsava

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